

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
APPLICATION FILED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
U.S NATIONAL PHASE OF PROSECUTION
EO/US

APPLICANT: NIKULINA, Antonina Vasilievna, et al
INTERNATIONAL APPL. NO.: PCT/RU99/00368
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 08 OCTOBER 1999 (08.10.99)
TITLE: ZIRCONIUM-BASED ALLOY ELEMENTS
USED IN NUCLEAR REACTOR CORES
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 25065-27

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, DC 20231
ATTN: EO/US

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DATE: 22 October 2001
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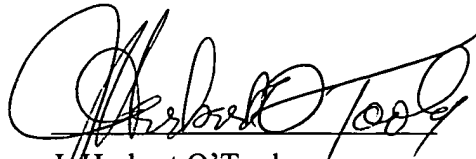
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to figuring the filing fee and prior to examination of the U.S national entry application arising from the referenced international application, please enter the amendment on the following pages, removing multiple dependency from the claims.

Claims 1 - 6 are amended. Claims 7 and 8 are new. In addition, a copy of the claims as received by the attorney of record is attached, marked to show the amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Herbert O'Toole
Agent/Attorney for Applicant

Date: 22 October 2001

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